ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A novel parachute design is presented that is distinguished by having trapezoidal gores, producing a parachute having a unique shape, which can be, selectively, either ballistic or gliding and steerable, in addition to having a selectively variable rate of descent. The parachute is comprised of a canopy assembly having plurality of laterally-aligned canopy segments, each canopy segment shaped as an extended hexagon, formed by joining two isosceles trapezoidal gores along their respective longer bases to form a centerline span, and each canopy segment joined to adjacent canopy segments along a seam formed by the sides of adjacent gores. The canopy is completed with semi-circular end panels, forming a semi-cylindrical canopy assembly. Suspension lines are attached to the skirt of the canopy, which are joined at the lower ends in a pair of suspension risers.